**Fitzherbert Community Hub**

**From Pop-up Cafe to Community Hub**

**Introduction (Herb)**

* Inspiration - Evangelii Gaudium paragraph 28: “The parish is the presence of the church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration….It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey and a centre of constant missionary outreach…...”
* How we started - weekly cafe run by RJFP which was popular but demonstrated the shortcomings of the current parish hall infrastructure.
* Power of the Partnership (**show January film with Father Kieron talking about the project partners** [**https://vimeo.com/500390619**](https://vimeo.com/500390619) **).**

**Covid response (Fran)**

* Highlighted level of food poverty in East Brighton
* Parish Hall repurposed as food bank, working with project partners to distribute food parcels and take away meals, including deliveries to vulnerable people self-isolating and refugees/asylum seekers with NRPF
* Still operating 3 days a week with never ending queue and latest lockdown likely to make local need even greater (**Show December video of foodbank** [**https://vimeo.com/490688823**](https://vimeo.com/490688823) **)**

**The future (Herb)**

* Having witnessed the increase in local food poverty and social isolation since March of this year, we feel the increased urgency of our mission to progressively and determinedly reduce food poverty and loneliness by offering our community a place where they can come together to find joint solutions to the issues they are facing.
* We will achieve these aims by building a purpose-built, fully accessible, well-managed building with community garden operational by Autumn 2021. The Fitzherbert Community Hub will be a place where all are welcome, where all will be nourished with food, friendship and fun.
* Benchmark project
	1. unique partnership
	2. blueprint for future use of church space
	3. pay as you feel so no one is excluded or needs to feel embarrassed
	4. Low environmental impact (as using food saved from landfill)
* In 3 years we hope to have:
	1. Significantly reduced food poverty and dependence on food banks due to the availability of regular, healthy hot meals made accessible to all through the pay-as-you-feel model.
	2. Created a more sustainable local area, where people look out for each other and help one another more, as our communities have opportunities to meet on a regular basis and get to know and understand each other better.
	3. Inspired increased confidence in the local community to share and showcase skills leading to an increase in the number of local people active in the delivery of the Hub and a renewed sense of purpose.
	4. Built between normally separated groups in our neighbourhood, thus reducing social isolation.

**What you can do (Fran)**

* Pray for us
* Donate - our fundraising target is very ambitious but we need a fit for purpose base to carry out this work. We are applying to Trusts and Foundations and would like to thank the Albert Gubay Foundation for contributing towards our Covid relief support but we need more!
* Visit our website and social media to find out more.
* Volunteer - in the coming months an increasing number of volunteer opportunities will become available - watch this space!

**Close (Herb)**

* Paragraph 216 Fratelli Tutti “To speak of a “culture of encounter” means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone.”